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Two new subspecies of *Anchinia laureolella* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1854 from South-Western Asia

(Lepidoptera, Amphispbatidae)

by

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Abstract: Two new subspecies of *Anchinia laureolella* H.-S. are described from Iran and Afghanistan. Up to now this species was known only from South Europe. The descriptions are founded on material stored in the Landessammlungen für Naturkunde in Karlsruhe (Germany).

Резюме: По материалам из коллекции Естественного-исторического музея в Карлсруэ (Германия), собранным в Иране и Афганистане, описаны 2 новых подвида *Anchinia laureolella* H.-S. Ранее этот вид был известен только из Южной Европы.

Introduction

The species *Anchinia laureolella* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1854 up to now was only known from South Europe. During the study of the Lepidoptera collection of the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Karlsruhe (Germany), I have found 39 specimens of this species from Turkey, West and South Iran and South-East Afghanistan. On the face of it, these moths were more or less homogeneous and differed slightly from the european *A. laureolella* H.-S. by the more greyish and monotonous coloured forewings. But a more careful investigation showed that these moths in fact belong to three different subspecies. The moths from Turkey (Anatolia, Antalya) I attributed to the nominotypical subspecies (*laureolella* H.-S.). The moths from Iran differed slightly from the moths from Turkey, and I consider them as a new subspecies. The same situation holds with these moths and the moths from Afghanistan. The differences between Afghanian and European specimens would be sufficient to describe the Afghanian moths as a different species, but the intermediate Iranian moths do not allow this.

Anchinia laureolella iranica subspec. nov.

Type material

Holotype ♂: W-Iran, 51 km westl. Kermanshah, 1500 m, Quercetum, 17.VI.1975, leg. H. G. AMSEL.

Paratypes: 3 ♂♂ with the same label; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, NW-Iran, 30 km südl. Rezaiyeh, 1400 m, 10.VI.1975, leg. H. G. AMSEL; 1 ♂, W-Iran, Kordestan, Strasse Baneh-Mahrivan, 25 km E Baneh, 1950 m, 4.VII.1975, leg. EBERT & FALKNER; 1 ♀, S-Iran, Khusestan, 15 km SE Yassudi, 2050 m, 15.VI.1972, leg. EBERT & FALKNER; 1 ♂, S-Iran, Fars, Daschte Ardian, Kotal-Pirehsan, 2000 m, 18.VI.1972, leg. EBERT & FALKNER; 1 ♂, S-Iran, Fars, Abadeh, 3 km S Didegan, 1900 m, 20.VI.1972, leg. EBERT & FALKNER.

Holotype and 7 paratypes are kept in Karlsruhe, Landessammlungen für Naturkunde. Two paratypes (♂♀) are kept in the St.-Petersburg, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Description

Head light grey. Labial palpi grey with the scales clasped to the second segment (fig. 1). This feature differentiates this subspecies from the european ssp. *laureolella* H.-S., with the scales protruding from the second segment of the labial palpi (fig. 2). The thorax is light grey with 2 black spots in the middle cell. The spot which is nearer to the base is made by raised black scales. This spot can vary in size. The absence of brown shade in the colouration of the forewings differentiates this subspecies from the european one. The hindwings are grey.

Male genitalia (fig. 3): The spiny gnathos plate is wide. The width is much more than the length of the distal part of the clasper. Aedoeagus with 6–7 cornuti. The european subspecies *laureolella* H.-S. has the same wide gnathos and an aedoeagus with 8 cornuti. The female genitalia corresponds to that of the european subspecies.

Distribution

North, West and South Iran.

Anchinia laureolella afghanica subsp. nov.

Type material

Holotype ♂: SO-Afghanistan, Safed Koh, S-Seite, Shahidan, 2700 m, 21.VI.1966, leg. H. G. AMSEL.

Paratypes: 11 ♂♂, 1 ♀, with the same label; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, SO-Afghanistan, Safed Koh, S-Seite, Kotkal, 2350 m, 19.–23.VI.1966, leg. H. G. AMSEL; 3 ♀♀, the same place, 14.–23.VI.1966, leg. H. G. AMSEL.

Holotype and 13 paratypes are kept in Karlsruhe, Landessammlungen für Naturkunde. Four paratypes (3 ♂♂, 1 ♀) are kept in St.-Petersburg, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences.

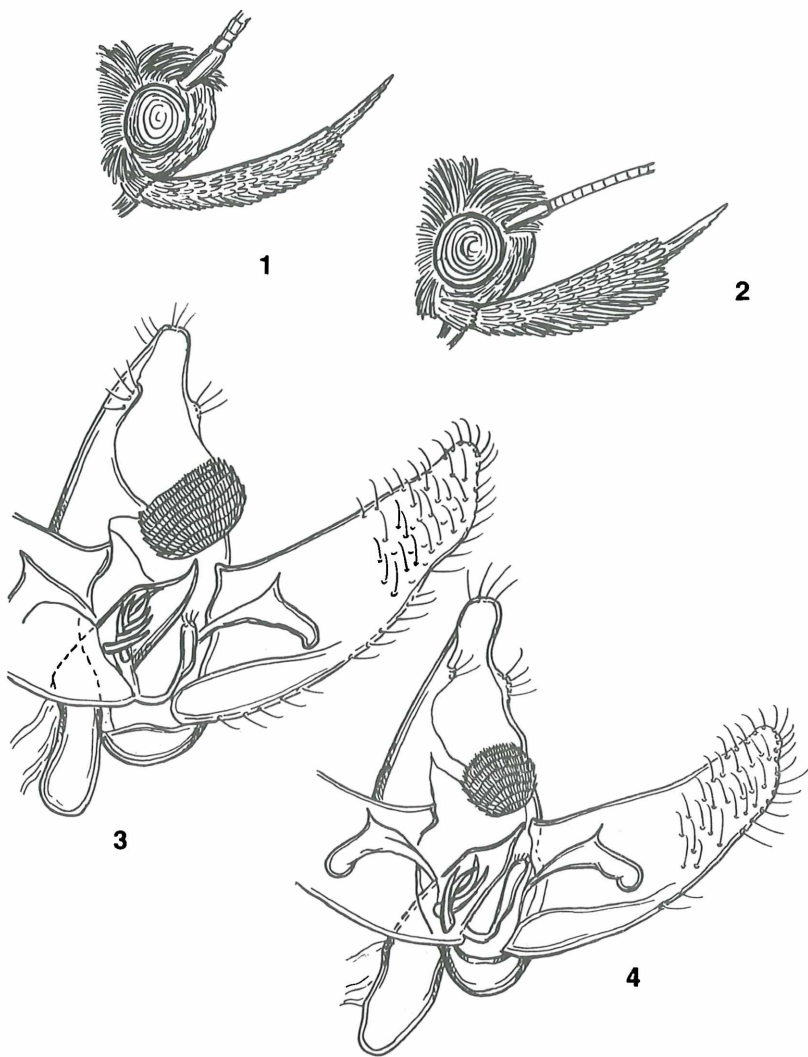
Description

Head light grey. Labial palpi the same as in the new subspecies *iranica*, differentiating this subspecies from the european subspecies *laureolella* H.-S. Colouration of thorax and forewings the same as in *iranica* subsp. nov., described above. The forewing length is 6–8 mm, the overall expansion 13–17 mm.

Male genitalia (fig. 4): The spiny gnathos plate is smaller than in *iranica* subsp. nov. and the nominate *laureolella* H.-S. The width of this plate is approximately equal to the distal part of the clasper. The aedoeagus contains 4–5 cornuti, which differentiates this subspecies from *iranica* with 6–7 cornuti and *I. laureolella* with 8 cornuti. The female genitalia do not show any serious differences from those of the other subspecies.

Distribution

SE-Afghanistan.



Figs. 1–4: *Anchinia laureolella* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1 – head of *iranica* subsp. nov., 2 – head of *l. laureolella*, 3 – ♂-genitalia of *iranica* subsp. nov., 4 – ♂-genitalia of *afghanica* subsp. nov.

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